conclude that the task undertaken by Goldschmidt is* impossible of achievement; that there is no way by which a mere collocation of chemical substances devoid of all specific spatial arrangement could engender a highly complex, specific and precise pattern of spatial arrange-ment ; still less is it conceivable that it could rectify that pattern after gross disturbance from outside.

In the fourth chapter we took note of what seem to be links between living and non-living matter, more especially in the form of the virus. The facts are still obscure ; but even if the virus should prove to be half-alive or half-way between living and not living, that conclusion would not in principle weigh heavily on the side of materialism. Though it would weigh in favour of the continuity of organic evolution with inorganic, it would be quite consistent with any form of the hylozoist theoiy ; for this assumes continuity of evolution nor would it be strictly inconsistent with dualism.

We went on to consider how far the principle of *Gestalt* as developed by W. Kohler, and much relied on by many biologists at the present time as a new way out of the difficulties of mechanistic biology, does in fact bring effective aid or promise of aid. We found that the *Gestalt* principle, though valid in some sense, in both the physical and the psychical spheres, is quite inadequate to the large demands made upon it in the way of explaining the many self-regulative and manifestly teleological activities of organisms ; and especially in the field of

morphogenesis it cannot be invoked with the least plausibility, even in the vaguest and most general terms, to account for the many features of the morphogenetic process which are clearly historical, that is to say, are the